

SALE OF CHICKASAW LANDS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

Transmitting a report in relation to the sale of Chickasaw lands.

DECEMBER 8, 1836.

Read, and laid upon the table.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 7, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report, in obedience to an act to carry into effect the treaties with the Chickasaws, approved April 20, 1836, requiring this department annually to lay before Congress a statement of the investments, &c., made for those Indians.

The sales of their lands were commenced at Pontitoc, the first Monday in January last, and the land offices have been since kept open for the disposal of them. The Receiver states he had been paid for those lands, to the 30th of September last, the sum of \$1,080,127 63. Deducting from this amount a year's salary of himself, the Register, and their clerks, (\$3,988 16,) the balance has been deposited by him in the banks required. Of that sum, at this date, \$670,000 72 has been carried into the Treasury, it being increased by recent additions from \$639,250 72, and the residue has been paid towards stock of the State of Alabama.

Of the amount carried into the Treasury from these sales, the sum of \$605,497 98, increased lately from \$577,675 81, has been drawn out chiefly in the purchase of different stocks, leaving now a balance of only \$69,502 74, which, under the above act of Congress, will be applied to discharge what is due to the United States for previous advances to carry the treaties into effect. For a detailed exhibit of the receipts and expenditures, up to the last dates, which had gone upon the books of the Treasury, reference is made to the document annexed, (A.)

To avoid, as much as practicable, loss of interest by delay in investing the funds expected, this department, at an early day, viz: in January last, some months before the act of Congress passed, addressed letters to several of the heaviest dealers in stocks, in the principal cities, to ascertain what State stocks were in the market, the time they had to run, the interest they bore, when and where payable, and the price they were selling at. Inquiry was also made as to the character and price of some of the safest bank stocks, and the brokers were requested to represent whether they could furnish half a million of dollars, in State or bank stocks, as might be pre-

ferred. The replies were in detail, and presented a large amount of State and bank stocks, from which a selection was made of the State stocks at the lowest rates. After this, I proceeded to purchase \$65,000 of Alabama State bonds, bearing five per cent. interest, payable semi-annually, and due from the 1st of April last to the Indians—\$250,000 of bonds of the same State, bearing same interest, and due from the 7th of May to the Indians—the principal of the first named bonds reimbursable in 1853, that of the others in 1865—\$250,000 of the bonds of the State of Tennessee, same interest as those of Alabama, and due from the 17th of June to the Indians, principal reimbursable, half in 1848, and half in 1853.

There was paid for the three hundred and fifteen Alabama bonds \$326,675, besides some interest on them at the time of the purchase, which interest has been since returned to the Treasury. For the Tennessee bonds, there was paid \$250,000. These Alabama and Tennessee bonds will annually produce, in interest, for the Indians, the sum of \$28,250. On the first Monday in May, there was interest received on the first named Alabama bonds \$166 83, for the Indians; and on the first Monday in November, on all the Alabama bonds, there was paid \$7,875: making, together, the sum of \$8,041 83.

The interest on the Tennessee bonds will be payable the 1st of January next, amounting to \$6,930.

In March last, and before the act of Congress passed, I proceeded under the treaty, and by authority from the President and Senate of the United States, to contract with the branch of the Bank of Alabama, at Decatur, for \$500,000 in bonds of that State, similar to those above named. These bonds were to be delivered to the department as fast as paid for, and the Receiver at Pontitoc was directed to pay to the agent of that bank, from time to time, such money as he might receive, until the amount of the contract was deposited therein. The great falling off in the receipts in March, and the subsequent months, delayed the completion of these payments much longer than was expected at the time the agreement was entered into. On this contract, the bank, at the last advices, had received \$417,440 47; but has surrendered only \$250,000 of bonds to the department, the others being in preparation, and soon to arrive, and to bear interest from the date of the receipt of the money. These bonds will annually yield in interest \$25,000. On the 1st of January next, there will have been earned by the money so paid, \$1,228 29; and at the same time will have accrued, but will not be payable until May next, interest on the other Alabama bonds, amounting to \$2,318 75; making altogether on the Alabama bonds \$6,547 04 of interest. This sum, added to the amount then payable on the Tennessee bonds of \$6,930, and of \$8,041 83 now on hand belonging to the Chickasaws, and there will then be interest alone realized by them on investments made of funds received from the sale of their lands, the sum of \$21,518 87; and from the same investments there will annually thereafter be received the sum of \$53,250.

Under another article of the treaty, certain lands have been sold by the War Department, and certain credits placed in the Treasury on account of the incompetent Chickasaw Indians, amounting in all to the sum of \$385,469 81. Of this sum there has been recently invested in State stocks, \$95,974 58 in Maryland six per cents, and \$146,375 in Kentucky five per cents; both at the rate of what two per cent. below par would be on five per cents. The balance is now in process of investment. A special exhibit

as to these last funds is annexed, (B,) though their amount, not having accrued from sales by this department, was kept distinct and not included in the annual report.

All which is respectfully submitted by

LEVI WOODBURY,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Honorable JAMES K. POLK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A.

A STATEMENT of the receipts and expenditures of the Chickasaw fund, from the 29th of April to the 1st of December, 1836, under the sixth article of the treaty of the 20th October, 1832.

Amount received on account of sales of land	-	-	\$659,250 72
Ditto interest on stocks	-	-	15,750 00

\$675,000 72

Amount expended, viz.

Branch of the Agricultural Bank of Missis-	-	-	\$20,000 00
sippi, at Pontitoe	-	-	
Bank of Alabama	-	-	265,104 00
J. D. Beers & Co.	-	-	69,279 17
W. D. Lewis	-	-	67,000 00
Do.	-	-	83,000 00
Do.	-	-	100,000 00
Guien & Thompson	-	-	41 85
John McGinnis, jr.	-	-	125 00
P. G. Washington	-	-	31 25
Samuel J. Potts	-	-	62 50
Thomas G. Bradford	-	-	62 50
S. D. King	-	-	62 50
John Davis	-	-	62 50
R. C. Austin	-	-	300 00
William Miller	-	-	52 71
Cawthorn & Barry	-	-	42 00
Beals & Greene	-	-	34 00
Thomas Ritchie	-	-	42 00
O. H. Wells	-	-	40 00
Philip Woodson	-	-	42 00
McMahon & Brown	-	-	38 00
David Ferguson	-	-	34 00
Robbinson & Hollis	-	-	42 00
			605,497 98
Balance	-	-	\$69,502 74

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, Dec. 5, 1836.

T. L. SMITH, *Register.*

B.

A STATEMENT of the receipts and expenditures of the Chickasaw fund, from the 6th of October to the 1st of December, 1836, under the fourth article of the treaty of the 24th May, 1834.

Amount received on account of the sales of land	\$385,469 81
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Amount expended, viz.

Joseph White	\$95,974 58	
George C. Gwathmey	48,791 66	
Do.	48,791 67	
Do.	48,791 67	
		242,349 58
Balance		\$143,120 3

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Register's Office, Dec. 5, 1836.

T. L. SMITH, Register.